



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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December 6, 2011

TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: Wendy L. Watanabe  
Auditor-Controller

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wendy L. Watanabe".

SUBJECT: **DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES — FOSTER  
FAMILY AGENCY PROGRAM MONITORING — FIRST STATUS  
REPORT APRIL 1, 2011 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2011**

In March 2011, the responsibility for program monitoring of contract Foster Family Agencies (FFA) was reassigned from the Auditor-Controller (A-C) to the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS or Department). As part of the reassignment, the Audit Committee instructed the A-C to report on DCFS' monitoring activities. This is our first semi-annual report on DCFS' FFA monitoring.

**Results of Review**

Since DCFS took over responsibility for monitoring the FFAs in March 2011, the Department has completed reviews of 21 (40%) of the 53 FFAs. While DCFS has not issued reports to the Board of Supervisors on their reviews, Department staff were completing the reports. DCFS was also completing fieldwork for reviews of six other FFAs, and has tentatively scheduled reviews of the remaining 26 FFAs for late 2011 and 2012.

Our review of DCFS' monitoring activities indicates that the Department has developed appropriate procedures and tools to effectively monitor the FFAs. The procedures and tools cover the same key program requirements that the A-C reviewed, including reviewing children's Needs and Services Plans, psychotropic medication requirements, timeliness of children's medical and dental examinations, and ensuring that the FFAs

obtain criminal and child abuse clearances for their staff. DCFS' monitoring procedures and tools also include facility site inspections, child interviews, and procedures for following-up on prior issues and recommendations.

We also noted that DCFS' proposed monitoring report format includes key information, such as identifying areas where the FFAs are not complying with their County contracts, and recommendations to the FFAs to correct the deficiencies noted in the reviews. DCFS also plans to post completed monitoring reports on the Department's website.

DCFS' goal is to monitor all FFAs at least once every two years (beginning April 2011), and monitor FFAs with significant issues more frequently. Attached is a list of the 53 contract FFAs, and the status of their DCFS' monitoring reviews.

### **Next Steps**

In our next review, we will report on DCFS' progress in issuing their monitoring reports, completing reviews of the remaining FFAs, and following up to ensure that the FFAs implement the Department's recommendations. We will also report back on any issues DCFS experiences in completing their planned reviews.

### **Review of Report**

We discussed our report with DCFS on October 25, 2011. DCFS agrees with our report, and will continue their program monitoring efforts.

We thank DCFS management for their cooperation and assistance during our review. Please call me if you have any questions, or your staff may contact Don Chadwick at (213) 253-0301.

WLW:JLS:DC:AA

Attachment

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer  
Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
Philip L. Browning, Interim Director, DCFS  
Public Information Office  
Children's Deputies  
Audit Committee

**Status of DCFS' Foster Family Agency Monitoring Reviews  
As of August 31, 2011**

#	Foster Family Agency	Monitoring Review Status
1	Alliance Human Services	Finalizing Report
2	Alpha Treatment Centers	Finalizing Report
3	America Care	Finalizing Report
4	Aspira Foster and Family Services	Finalizing Report
5	Aviva Center	Finalizing Report
6	Beta Foster Care	Finalizing Report
7	Bienvenidos	Finalizing Report
8	Child Help USA	Finalizing Report
9	Children's Bureau of So. California	Finalizing Report
10	Children's Institute International	Scheduled for November 2011
11	Children's Way	Scheduled for February 2012
12	Canyon Acres	Scheduled for May 2012
13	Concept 7, Inc.	Finalizing Report
14	Dangerfield Institute of Urban Problems	Scheduled for March 2012
15	David & Margaret	Finalizing Report
16	Eggleston Family Services	Finalizing Report
17	Ettie Lee Homes, Inc.	Finalizing Report
18	Excel Family Intervention Program <sup>1</sup>	Fieldwork in Progress
19	Families for Children	Scheduled for December 2011
20	Families Uniting Families	Scheduled for January 2012
21	Five Acres	Finalizing Report
22	Florence Crittenton Services	Scheduled for May 2012
23	Foster Family Network	Scheduled for March 2012
24	Fred Jefferson Memorial	Fieldwork in Progress
25	Futuro Infantil Hispano	Scheduled for October 2011
26	Guardians of Love	Scheduled for November 2011
27	Hannah's House	Scheduled for January 2012
28	Hathaway-Sycamores	Scheduled for September 2011
29	Holy Family Services	Fieldwork in Progress
30	Homes of Hope	Scheduled for January 2012
31	Inner Circle	Finalizing Report
32	Institute for Black Parenting	Fieldwork in Progress

<sup>1</sup> This Agency is currently on a Do Not Refer status, which means DCFS is not placing additional children with the Agency.

#	Foster Family Agency	Monitoring Review Status
33	Kinship Center	Fieldwork in Progress
34	Koinonia Foster Homes, Inc.	Scheduled for September 2011
35	Latino Family Institute, Inc.	Finalizing Report
36	Masada Homes	Fieldwork in Progress
37	McKinley Children's Center	Scheduled for November 2011
38	Niños Latinos Unidos	Scheduled for November 2011
39	Nuevo Amanecer Latino	Scheduled for October 2011
40	Olive Crest	Scheduled for March 2012
41	Optimist Boys Home & Ranch	Scheduled for September 2011
42	Penny Lane	Finalizing Report
43	Rosemary Children's Services	Scheduled for October 2011
44	Secure Transitions	Finalizing Report
45	Serenity Infant Care Homes, Inc.	Finalizing Report
46	South Bay Bright Future	Scheduled for December 2011
47	Southern California	Finalizing Report
48	Teens Happy Home	Scheduled for November 2011
49	Trinity Youth Services	Scheduled for October 2011
50	The Village Family Services	Scheduled for September 2011
51	Walden Environment	Scheduled for February 2012
52	Westside Children's Center	Scheduled for November 2012
53	Wings of Refuge	Finalizing Report